



COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS' BIRTHDAY MESSAGE

Marines,

For ten years now, our Corps has been engaged in continuous combat operations against those who threaten the security of America and our allies. We turned the tide in the Anbar province of Iraq and continue to see success today in southwest Afghanistan. While it has come at a cost, we have much to be proud of.

This past year in operations around the world including humanitarian disaster relief, counter - piracy, theater security cooperation, special operations, counter-insurgency and many more, you continued to solidify our place as America's expeditionary force in readiness. Since the Continental Congress created two battalions of Marines 236 years ago, our legacy as an ever-ready, ever-capable, victory-producing organization remains intact.

Our rich heritage of selfless service and fidelity to Nation and to one another lives on in all who currently wear the eagle, globe and anchor - those who have answered the clarion call to duty with remarkable courage, dedication and unshakable resolve that Marines are so well known for. To all Marines-past and present-and especially to our families. I extend my deep gratitude for all you have done and all you continue to do.

As we celebrate our 236th Birthday, let us look forward to future challenges - whatever they may be-and reaffirm our pledge to be America's premier crisis response force; to be the first to fight ... always ready for the toughest and most challenging assignments.

Happy Birthday, Marines, and Semper Fidelis!



Watch Indomitable Spirit: The 236th Marine Corps Birthday Message

HERO

WALLA WALLA, WASH., NATIVE AWARDED BRONZE STAR



According to an article in *Tri-City Herald*, during the Nov. 4 Marine Corps Ball in Yakima, Wash., Nat Small, a Marine veteran, was



awarded the Bronze Star with Valor Device for actions during his service in Afghanistan. According to the official citation, Small was awarded the honor "for heroic service in connection with combat operations against the enemy" between April 18 and June 22, 2010. At that time, Small was a lance corporal serving as assistant team leader of a scout sniper platoon in Helmand province, Afghanistan. Small returned fire with his rifle, killing an enemy fighter and was continuing to engage attackers when a rocket-propelled grenade exploded next to him. Despite shrapnel wounds in his legs and a traumatic brain injury, Small went on to help move his wounded squad mate to a safe position. As a corpsman treated the man, Small continued suppressing enemy fire and also assisted with providing

cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Then when a medical evacuation helicopter arrived, Small helped carry the wounded man onto the aircraft.

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NEWS

VICTORY IN NAWA: STANDING ON THE CUSP OF TRANSITION



They arrived early by vehicle convoy to the small Afghan National Army outpost named Dangar in the northern part of the district. Marines and sailors with 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, stood beside their Afghan counterparts, ready to depart for the four-day trek that lay before them - approximately 30 miles in total. The hike would be difficult. Each man carrying more than 60 pounds of body armor, food and water would be tested, their mental and physical endurance challenged, but if Afghans

and Marines have anything in common, it's their ability to endure. The walk joined Afghan Lt.

Col. Gul Ahmad, commanding officer of 1st Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps, and U.S. Marine Lt. Col. Tyler Zagurski, commanding officer of 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, in a patrol across the district to speak with local residents and key leaders, assessing problems and celebrating successes along the way. "The Nawa Victory Walk will show that Nawa is safe and secure," said Zagurski, a Mercer Island, Wash., native. "The markets are open and the security forces are welcome to walk and greet people and celebrate Nawa's progress."

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[See Also: Regional Command Southwest weekly news round-up](#)

MARINE WAR GAMES DRIVE WHOLESALE AMPHIBIOUS SHAKEUP

For the first time, the Marine's Amphibious Capabilities Working Group launched a war game at Marine Corps Headquarters in Quantico, Va., on Nov. 4. "This is the first of two the working group will conduct over the next few months," said Lt. Gen. Richard Mills, Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration. "This week's war game will test and examine core Navy and Marine Corps tactics and



see how they can be adapted to the modern battlefield. The follow-on war game will explore how other services and 'governmental agencies' can sharpen those core capabilities."

According to Mills, the group is also looking at changing the way Marines are resupplied after storming a beach head. "Marines usually carry supplies and equipment on board their assault vehicles during a mission so that units can carry on the fight from the water's edge without resupplying. But what if supplies were airlifted to Marines after the beach head is secured? What will that do to the Marines' ability to press the battle inland? Group members plan to answer those questions and myriad others during the war games," Mills said.

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MARINES NOW TREAT BOOT CAMP INJURIES INSTEAD

OF DISMISSING THEM

According to a Nov. 4 article published by the *Los Angeles Times*, the Marine Corps, while still living up to its reputation of having the toughest recruit training of any military service, realized that boot camp injuries can be expensive, time consuming and demoralizing to injured recruits and their buddies. In order to reduce the number of injuries, the Marine Corps hired 27 certified athletic trainers, most with experience tending to professional and college athletes, to oversee training for enlisted recruits and officer candidates throughout the nation. In January, the Marines will open a \$15.5-million Sports Medicine Program facility at the San Diego depot to help in the diagnosis and rehabilitation of injured recruits. The 30,000-square-foot facility will include whirlpool tubs, "anti-gravity" treadmills and other special equipment.

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HOLLY PETRAEUS: TROOPS, FAMILIES DESERVE FINANCIAL PROTECTION



Last week, Holly Petraeus, wife of Army General David Petraeus (Retired) and current Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, provided written testimony to the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee. As the Assistant Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Office of Service Members Affairs, she advocated for greater financial protection for military families. In her letter, she cited home ownership, military education benefits, car loans, spouse employment and indebtedness at the top the list of financial issues confronting service members and their families. "In my role as a military family member, I have seen the problems that can arise for our service members who may experience 'too much month and not enough money,'" she wrote. "I have also seen firsthand the devastating impact financial scams and predatory lending can have on service members and their families.

Unfortunately, there are still too many young troops learning about wise spending through hard experience and years of paying off expensive debt." Petraeus said her goal is to ensure service members and their families, who devote their lives to protecting the nation, have a strong financial advocate. "We will make every effort to achieve the goal of every military family being a financially educated family, armed with knowledge of how to avoid scams and poor financial decisions, protected by consumer laws as needed, and willing and able to invest toward long-term financial goals," she said.

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SAN DIEGO TO LOWER WATER USAGE WITH INSTALLATION OF INNOVATIVE REUSE TECHNOLOGY



In conjunction with Living Machine(R) Systems, Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) in San Diego will recycle blackwater for sub-surface irrigation, minimizing its water usage in drought-prone San Diego. The Living Machine system is an ecological wastewater treatment and reuse technology for black and greywater. Simply put, the new MCRD system will extract wastewater from an existing sewer line at the base and treat it to meet rigorous water reuse standards for the state of California. "The Living Machine system offers us the opportunity to go

beyond conventional water reuse technologies and achieve a significant new level of control over our water resources," said Richard Hatcher, energy manager at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot. "This is an opportunity for MCRD to demonstrate innovative technology, serve as a model for other Marine Corps facilities and be a partner in San Diego's water-saving efforts." It is estimated that the on-site Living Machine system will recycle 10,000 gallons of sewer-mined wastewater per day, which will add up at the location that provides basic training for over 21,000 recruits per year and is recognized as one of the leading Department of Defense facilities for the implementation of clean technology.

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FAMILY MATTERS BLOG: WHITE HOUSE INVITES

MILITARY KIDS TO SUBMIT HOLIDAY CARDS



This holiday season, many military families will celebrate apart while love ones are deployed. However, the American Red Cross is offering a simple way to help bring the holidays to deployed servicemembers. For the fifth year, the Red Cross has partnered with Pitney Bowes, a mail-stream technology company, to collect and distribute holiday cards to service members, veterans and their families, regardless of location. To participate in the Holiday Mail for Heroes program, simply mail your cards to: Holiday Mail for Heroes, P.O. Box 5456, Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456.

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EVENTS

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

In honor of the 236th birthday of the United States Marine Corps and all of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Joseph F. Dunford, will host a Wreath Laying Ceremony on Thursday, Nov. 10 at 10 a.m.

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